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Message Text

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53
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

RSR-01 /101 W
---------- 042700
R 241033Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3455
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR O'NEILL

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR PINT LT SF
SUBJ: JONATHAN SPEAKS OUT ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

REF : A. MASERU 505
B. MASERU 740

1. IN STATEMENT BROADCAST BY RADIO LESOTHO EVENING AUG 23, PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN, IN LIGHT OF "SPECULATION" AND "SENSATIONAL RUMORS CAUSED BY . . . OPPOSITION LEADERS," ATTEMPTED CLARIFY GOL POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH SAG. MAJOR POINTS WERE:

A. TWO COUNTRIES CLOSELY BOUND, MUST BOTH FOLLOW POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE; LESOTHO HAS AND WILL CONTINUE.

B. HE AND VORSTER HAVE AGREED ON POLICY OF "TELEPHONE DIPLOMACY" AND PERSONAL CONTACT RATHER THAN ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES, WHICH LESOTHO CANNOT AFFORD. PRESENT POLICY WORKS SATISFACTORILY.
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C. SAG HAS PROPOSED, AND GOL HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE, ESTABLISHMENT CONSULAR RELATIONS. FAILURE TO ESTABLISH SUCH RELATIONS NOT FAULT OF GOL, BUT RATHER DUE TO DOCTRINE OF APARTHEID. LESOTHO CITIZENS, BLACK AND WHITE, TREATED EQUALLY HERE BUT DIFFERENTLY AS SOON AS THEY CROSS BORDER. THIS IS ISSUE ON WHICH GOL "CANNOT MAKE CONCESSIONS."

2. COMMENT: AT FINAL SITTING OF INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN MAY, BCP DEPUTY LEADER RAMOREBOLI CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAG (REF A). IN JULY, UDP LEADER MOFELI QUOTED AS SAYING HE WOULD PROPOSE SAME WHEN ASSEMBLY RECONVENES, AND EXPECTED PROPOSAL TO BE ADOPTED (REF B). THUS JONATHAN STATEMENT APPARENTLY DESIGNED AT LEAST PARTIALLY MEET ANY SUCH MOVE IN ASSEMBLY, WHICH NOW EXPECTED RECONVENE IN SEPTEMBER. WHILE REFERENCE TO POLICY OF "PERSONAL CONTACT" (PARA 1A) COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANCE FOR PROPOSED JONATHAN/VORSTER MEETING, IT MORE LIKELY THAT JONATHAN'S CONTINUED CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TREATMENT OF BASOTHO MAKES CHANCES SUCH MEETING EVEN MORE REMOTE.
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